CA4ONHBL K77
85R266

URBAN/MUNICIPAL

Report to the Parks & Recreation Committee
by Alderman Brian Hinkley
- 1985 Conference of the
Canadian Parks & Recreation Assoc.

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
SEP 20 1985
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

REPORT TO

THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

BY

ALDERMAN BRIAN HINKLEY

ON HIS ATTENDANCE AT

THE 1985 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF

THE CANADIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

HELD ON AUGUST 11TH - 15TH, 1985

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

PREFACE

The 1985 Annual Conference of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association was, without a doubt, one of the best conferences that I have ever attended. The organization was superb, the accommodations were excellent and the speakers were top-notch and high quality ... but, the weather was awful. Our host, the City of Edmonton, can feel extremely proud of a job well done. All of the people involved in the conference that I had the pleasure of associating with were more than pleased to assist and accommodate in any way possible. The City of Hamilton will have its work cut out should we be the host for this conference in 1989.

The Committee should be aware that the City of Toronto, the City of Thunder Bay and the City of Sudbury are attempting to win this conference and were lobbying the Executive.

OPENING ADDRESS

RUBEN F. W. NELSON - President, Square One Management Limited and Transformation Research Network

Ruben Nelson assisted CP/RA delegates to face, explore and understand the nature and implications of the profound economic, technological, social and psychological changes which are now taking place in Canada and around the world. Whether from a rural county or urban centre, he indicated we all need to develop an awareness of the forces that shape our lives.

WORKSHOPS AND PLENARY SESSIONS

BOOZE, BINGO AND THE MUNICIPAL FACILITY

This workshop consisted of a panel discussion. One of the questions raised was: "Does liquor have a role to play in the operation of a municipal recreation facility?" The various speakers approached this topic from different perspectives. It was suggested that revenues from liquor sales will help reduce our deficits, however, concern was expressed regarding liquor in our neighbourhood recreation facilities.

STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY PROJECT

This workshop consisted of a panel presentation and dealt with the question of proper use of land. Points were made about park amenities and programs being needed to add the finishing touches. The workshop included three talks from different levels of park development: a) playground development; b) community league development; c) large scale park development. It also focused on design standards and attention to the detail so the open space can mature and meet the needs of the user.

WHY RECREATION IN SHOPPING CENTRES?

This workshop consisted of a visit to the West Edmonton Mall. Forget about words trying to describe this facility. You are just going to have to visit and see it for yourself.

West Edmonton Mall is much more than just a shopping centre and this session allowed delegates the opportunity to take a close look at this concept. This amazing mall includes over 470 shopping outlets, 11 theatres, 80 restaurants, the world's largest indoor amusement park (Fantasyland), an NHL size rink and numerous animals. On top of all this, Phase 3 is scheduled to open this Fall. Delegates toured the facility and listened to management discuss their philosophy of this one-of-a-kind recreational facility.

FABRIC ROOF STRUCTURES

The session examined why, when and where fabric should be used in roof structures. The speaker talked about projects ranging from small hot tubs to the B.C. Place. I found this workshop to be the most boring of all the ones I attended.

RECREATION LITIGATION: IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGE

This workshop indeed had the most relevance to Hamilton as we discussed the problems of suits against the City in regards to people injuring themselves when using parks and recreational facilities. The lawyer speaking actually raised the court case that we in Hamilton were involved with and ended up paying out $30,000. Because of the significance of this problem and the $6,000,000 lawsuit in Brampton, this workshop was of particular relevance. I have, therefore, purchased the tape of the proceedings of this workshop and in the "Recommendation" section will speak to this further.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A wide range of social activities accompanied the programme and I can only say that Edmonton and all the organizers and volunteers who worked so hard on the conference can feel very proud. The City and their organizers were very hospitable hosts.

1989 CONFERENCE

Miss Schimmel, through her contacts with Executive Members and long standing association with various recreationists, was able to do a great deal of promoting for the 1989 conference. Bob Sugden and myself distributed paraphernalia and literature regarding Hamilton and our presence was indeed felt by the delegates and the Executive members. It would appear that we have an excellent opportunity to bring

the 1989 CPRA Conference to Hamilton. It will be necessary to send a delegation to Montreal in October to appear before the Executive and present our case. This will give us an opportunity to prepare a good presentation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that the Committee consider holding a special meeting to hear the tape regarding the workshop "Recreation Litigation: Implications of Change". Our Legal Department should be in attendance to hear the comments and provide advice to the Committee. The workshop tape is approximately 90 minutes in length so I would suggest that we schedule a two-hour meeting on this issue.

2. At one of the workshops an interesting experiment was done involving children and the planning for a playground. The children were provided with a Lego set and they proceeded to build a playground structure out of Lego. I am suggesting that the Waterfront Parks Committee consider allocating a sum of money to purchase a large amount of Lego blocks and involve one or two students from approximately 20 schools across Hamilton and set aside one full day for the children to build a Lego model of the proposed waterfront development. The Lego company may be interested in supplying the material free or at a reduced cost since they will receive some publicity. It will also further involve the public and may produce an interesting media event.

3. That the Committee instruct the Director of Culture and Recreation to investigate the feasibility of purchasing portable grandstands and stages and report back to the Committee regarding the price and probable uses.

COMPLAINTS

Everything in Edmonton was just fine, except the weather. It was cold, wet and windy.

APPRECIATION

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Parks and Recreation Committee for recommending my attendance to this conference and to those other members of Council who supported my attendance. Various conference material is available at your request by either contacting myself or Mr. Joe Schatz, Secretary, Parks and Recreation Committee.

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 2022 21335251 7